



**Investment Objective**

The Fairtree Blended Equity Prescient Fund is an actively managed general equity fund with a focus on maximizing total returns in excess of the benchmark, after fees, over the long term.

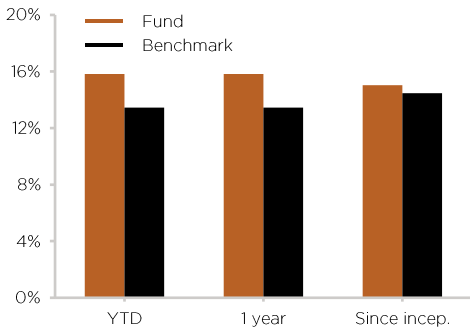
**Investment Policy**

The portfolio will aim to deliver long term capital growth by investing in both local and global equity markets. In order to achieve this objective, the portfolio will invest in selected shares across all industry sectors ranging across large, mid and smaller cap shares. The portfolio will seek to capture value by focusing on equity selection opportunities as well as quantitative screening process, based on various factors. The portfolio may include local, global developed and global emerging market equities. The portfolio will be exposed to exchange rate risk.

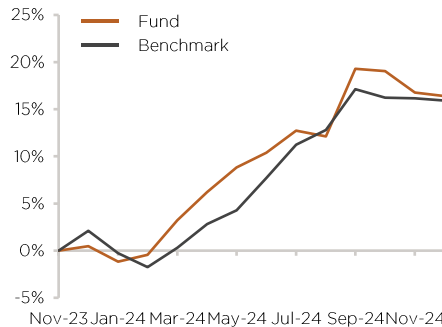
**RISK INDICATOR**



**ANNUALISED PERFORMANCE (%)**



**CUMULATIVE PERFORMANCE**



Source: Performance calculated by Prescient Fund Services verified by the FSP  
Date: 31 December 2024

**ANNUALISED PERFORMANCE (%)**

	Fund	Benchmark
1 year	<b>15.82</b>	13.45
Since incep.	<b>15.04</b>	14.47
Highest rolling 1 year	<b>16.78</b>	16.15
Lowest rolling 1 year	<b>15.82</b>	13.45

All performance figures are net of fees.

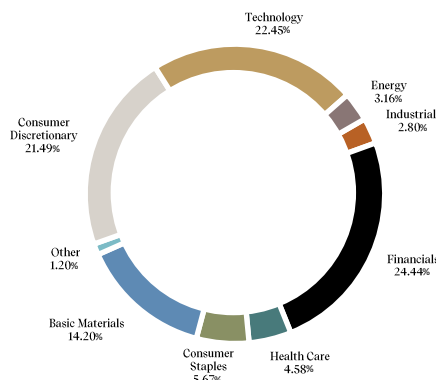
**RISK AND FUND STATS**

Since inception (p.a.)	Fund	Benchmark
Alpha	<b>0.57%</b>	
Sharpe Ratio	<b>0.89</b>	0.97
Sortino Ratio	<b>2.75</b>	
Information Ratio	<b>0.10</b>	
Standard Deviation	<b>7.69%</b>	6.54%
Max Drawdown	<b>-2.43%</b>	-3.77%
Max Gain	<b>6.39%</b>	3.83%
% Positive Months	<b>61.54%</b>	61.54%

**ASSET ALLOCATION (%)**

	S.A	Foreign	Total
Equity	59.59	39.69	<b>99.28</b>
Cash	0.35	0.18	<b>0.53</b>
Property	0.19	0.00	<b>0.19</b>
Total	60.13	39.87	<b>100.00</b>

**EQUITY SECTOR EXPOSURE**



**FUND INFORMATION**

**Fund Manager:**

Cor Booysen, Cornelius Zeeman, Chantelle Baptiste and Jacques Haasbroek

**Fund Classification:**

South African - Equity - General

**Benchmark:**

SA-Equity-General Category Average

**JSE Code:**

NFBFA2

**ISIN Number:**

ZAE000330007

**Regulation 28 Compliant:**

N/A

**Fund Size:**

R315.9 m

**No of Units:**

7,838,527

**Unit Price:**

115.87

**Inception Date:**

November 2023

**Minimum Investment:**

R50 000 lump-sum  
R1 000 per month

**Initial Fee:**

0.00%

**Annual Management Fee:**

1.00% (excl. VAT)

**Performance Fee:**

N/A

**Fee Class:**

A2

**Fee Breakdown:**

Please note the Total Expense Ratio and Transaction Costs cannot be determined accurately because of the short life span of the Financial Product and the funds TER will be available after one year.

**Income Distribution:**

31 March 2024 - 0.46 cpu

Please note the fund's benchmark changed from South African - General - Equity Category Average to 60% FTSE JSE Capped Shareholders Weighted Index (J433T) 40% MSCI All Countries World Index (MSCI ACWI) effective 01 January 2025.



TOP 10 HOLDINGS



FUND MONTHLY RETURNS

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	YTD
2023												0.49%	0.49%
2024	-1.65%	0.75%	3.66%	2.92%	2.46%	1.44%	2.11%	-0.53%	6.39%	-0.22%	-1.89%	-0.34%	15.82%

MARKET COMMENTARY

The Fund returned -0.34% for the month, the peer group returned -0.19% and the JSE Capped SWIX Index decreased by 0.31% (all in ZAR). Global markets saw a strong correction in December, with the MSCI ACWI Index and the MSCI Emerging Markets Index decreasing by 2.4% and 0.14%, respectively (all in USD). All major markets making up the MSCI ACWI posted negative returns over the month, except for China, which increased by 2.7%.

The US market experienced a notable downturn in December, driven by several macroeconomic factors. US inflation, as measured by the consumer price index, increased by 0.3% in November 2024, leading to a 2.7% increase year-on-year. The US economy continued to power ahead, with an annualised GDP growth of 3.1% in the third quarter. The Federal Reserve cut interest rates by 25 basis points to the range of 4.25% to 4.5% at the December meeting. However, they scaled back the forecast for interest rate cuts expected in 2025, which caused a strong market correction. European shares ended the month 2.4% lower, as concerns over potential tariffs from the US and continued weak data points weighed on the market.

The European Central Bank cut interest rates by 25 basis points in December and indicated more rate cuts would follow in 2025 on the back of the muted growth outlook for the region. Within emerging markets, Taiwan was the strongest performer over the month, led by ongoing optimism around artificial intelligence. China increased by 2.7% due to monetary easing by the PBOC and government stimulus packages. South Korea was the worst performing emerging market over the month following the impeachment of both the president and then the acting president in December. Brazil was the second weakest emerging market, driven by ongoing currency weakness and a worsening fiscal outlook. The South African market dropped over the month, driven by economic growth that came in below the market's expectation for the third quarter. However, the ongoing cooling in inflation and interest rate cuts in the US provide scope for the SARB to implement further rate cuts.

Noteworthy portfolio actions over the month include exiting the Fund's holdings in Exxaro, Ulta Beauty and CNH Industrial. The Fund initiated new positions in Cargill, Novo Nordisk and Reinet during the month. Notable contributors to Fund performance included holdings in Absa (+32 basis points), Google (+15 basis points), Prosus (+20 basis points) and Pinduoduo (+15 basis points). Notable detractors from performance over the month came from Standard Bank (-22 basis points), Kaspi (-22 basis points) and Evolution (-22 basis points).

The Fund's style and country positioning remain largely unchanged. The Fund remains overweight in Chinese technology companies, as their relative rating versus USA technology continues to be at extreme levels.



## Glossary

**Annualised Performance:** Annualised performance shows longer term performance rescaled to a 1 year period. Annualised performance is the average return per year over the period. Actual annual figures are available to the investor on request.

**Highest & Lowest Performance:** The highest and lowest performance for any 1 year over the period since inception have been shown.

**NAV:** The net asset value represents the assets of a Fund less its liabilities.

**Current Yield:** Annual income (interest or dividends) divided by the current price of the security.

**Alpha:** Denotes the outperformance of the fund over the benchmark.

**Sharpe Ratio:** The Sharpe ratio is used to indicate the excess return the portfolio delivers over the risk free rate per unit of risk adopted by the fund.

**Sortino Ratio:** A measure of the risk-adjusted return of a portfolio. It is a modification of the Sharpe ratio but only penalises the returns falling below a user specified target, or required rate of return, while the Sharpe ratio penalises both upside and downside volatility equally.

**Standard Deviation:** The deviation of the return stream relative to its own average.

**Max Drawdown:** The maximum peak to trough loss suffered by the Fund since inception.

**Max Gain:** Largest increase in any single month.

**% Positive Month:** The percentage of months since inception where the Fund has delivered positive return.

**High Water Mark:** The highest level of performance achieved over a specified period.

**Performance Fee Cap:** The maximum performance fee that can be charged over a specified period

**Total Expense Ratio (TER%):** The Total Expense Ratio (TER) is the percentage of the net asset value of the class of the Financial Product incurred as expenses relating to the administration of the Financial Product.

**Performance fee incl. in TER (%):** The Performance Fee is a payment made to the Fund Manager for generating outperformance and is generally calculated as percentage of outperformance, often both realized and unrealized.

**Transaction Costs (TC%):** The Transaction Costs (TC) is the percentage of the net asset value of the Financial Product incurred as costs relating to the buying and selling of the assets underlying the Financial Product.

**Total Investment Charges TIC (%) = TER (%) + TC (%):** The Total Investment Charges (TIC), the TER + the TC, is the percentage of the net asset value of the class of the Financial Product incurred as costs relating to the investment of the Financial Product. It should be noted that a TIC is the sum of two calculated ratios (TER+TC).

## Specific Risk

**Default Risk:** The risk that the issuers of fixed income instruments may not be able to meet interest payments nor repay the money they have borrowed. The issuers credit quality is vital. The worse the credit quality, the greater the risk of default and therefore investment loss.

**Derivatives Risk:** The use of derivatives could increase overall risk by magnifying the effect of both gains and losses in a Fund. As such, large changes in value and potentially large financial losses could result.

**Developing Market (excluding SA) Risk:** Some of the countries invested in may have less developed legal, political, economic and/or other systems. These markets carry a higher risk of financial loss than those in countries generally regarded as being more developed.

**Foreign Investment Risk:** Foreign securities investments may be subject to risks pertaining to overseas jurisdictions and markets, including (but not limited to) local liquidity, macroeconomic, political, tax, settlement risks and currency fluctuations.

**Interest Rate Risk:** The value of fixed income investments (e.g. bonds) tends to be inversely related to interest and inflation rates. Hence their value decreases when interest rates and/or inflation rises.

**% Property Risk:** Investments in real estate securities can carry the same risks as investing directly in real estate itself. Real estate prices move in response to a variety of factors, including local, regional and national economic and political conditions, interest rates and tax considerations.

**Currency Exchange Risk:** Changes in the relative values of individual currencies may adversely affect the value of investments and any related income.

**Geographic / Sector Risk:** For investments primarily concentrated in specific countries, geographical regions and/or industry sectors, their resulting value may decrease whilst portfolios more broadly invested might grow.

**Derivative Counterparty Risk:** A counterparty to a derivative transaction may experience a breakdown in meeting its obligations thereby leading to financial loss.

**Liquidity Risk:** If there are insufficient buyers or sellers of particular investments, the result may lead to delays in trading and being able to make settlements, and/or large fluctuations in value. This may lead to larger financial losses than expected.

**Equity Investment Risk:** Value of equities (e.g. shares) and equity-related investments may vary according to company profits and future prospects as well as more general market factors. In the event of a company default (e.g. bankruptcy), the owners of their equity rank last in terms of any financial payment from that company.

## Disclosure

The portfolio has adhered to its object and there were no material changes to the composition of the portfolio during the quarter.

## Risk Indicator Definition

The Portfolio is more diversified than the benchmark, thus holding smaller positions in the largest capitalisation stocks than the benchmark. This comes with the risk of more volatile relative returns to the broader market when the largest stocks in the benchmark outperform. We believe however that this strategy of holding a more diversified portfolio results in lower single stock risk, and whilst there may be periods of underperformance when the large cap stocks rally, we firmly believe in efficient risk management on an absolute basis. The strategy is also exposed to various factors driving investment performance, for example Value and Momentum, and these factors may also experience periods of relative underperformance. Global research has shown however, that consistent long term exposure to these factors lead to investment reward. This portfolio is permitted to invest in foreign securities which may have additional risks (FX Movements for example). However, the portfolio does not currently hold any foreign securities and the manager does not intend on exposing the portfolio to any foreign securities going forward.

## Disclaimer

Collective Investment Schemes in Securities (CIS) should be considered as medium to long term investments. The value may go up as well as down and past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. CIS's are traded at the ruling price and can engage in scrip lending and borrowing. The collective investment scheme may borrow up to 10% of the market value of the portfolio to bridge insufficient liquidity. A schedule of fees, charges and maximum commissions is available on request from the Manager. There is no guarantee in respect of capital or returns in a portfolio. A CIS may be closed to new investors in order for it to be managed more efficiently in accordance with its mandate.

CIS prices are calculated on a net asset basis, which is the total value of all the assets in the portfolio including any income accruals and less any permissible deductions (brokerage, STT, VAT, auditor's fees, bank charges, trustee and custodian fees and the annual management fee) from the portfolio divided by the number of participatory interests (units) in issue. Forward pricing is used. The Fund's Total Expense Ratio (TER) reflects the percentage of the average Net Asset Value (NAV) of the portfolio that was incurred as charges, levies and fees related to the management of the portfolio. A higher TER does not necessarily imply a poor return, nor does a low TER imply a good return. The current TER cannot be regarded as an indication of future TER's. During the phase in period TER's do not include information gathered over a full year. Transaction Costs (TC) is the percentage of the value of the Fund incurred as costs relating to the buying and selling of the Fund's underlying assets. Transaction costs are a necessary cost in administering the Fund and impacts Fund returns. It should not be considered in isolation as returns may be impacted by many other factors over time including market returns, the type of Fund, investment decisions of the investment manager and the TER.

The Manager retains full legal responsibility for any third party named portfolio. Where foreign securities are included in a portfolio there may be potential constraints on liquidity and the repatriation of funds, macro economic risks, political risks, foreign exchange risks, tax risks, settlement risks; and potential limitations on the availability of market information. The investor acknowledges the inherent risk associated with the selected investments and that there are no guarantees. Please note that all documents, notifications of deposit, investment, redemption and switch applications must be received by Prescient by or before 13:00 (SA), to be transacted at the net asset value price for that day. Where all required documentation is not received before the stated cut off time Prescient shall not be obliged to transact at the net asset value price as agreed to. Funds are priced at either 3pm or 5pm depending on the nature of the Fund. Prices are published daily and are available on the Prescient website.

This portfolio operates as a white label fund under the Prescient Unit Trust Scheme, which is governed by the Collective Investment Schemes Control Act.

Performance has been calculated using net NAV to NAV numbers with income reinvested. The performance for each period shown reflects the return for investors who have been fully invested for that period. Individual investor performance may differ as a result of initial fees, the actual investment date, the date of reinvestments and dividend withholding tax. Full performance calculations are available from the manager on request.

For any additional information such as fund prices, brochures and application forms please go to [www.fairtree.com](http://www.fairtree.com)

**Management Company:** Prescient Management Company (RF) (Pty) Ltd., **Registration number:** 2002/022560/07 **Physical address:** Prescient House, Westlake Business Park, Otto Close, Westlake, 7945 **Postal address:** PO Box 31142, Tokai, 7966 **Telephone number:** 0800 111 899 **E-mail:** [info@prescient.co.za](mailto:info@prescient.co.za) **Website:** [www.prescient.co.za](http://www.prescient.co.za)

**Trustee:** Nedbank Investor Services, **Physical address:** 2nd Floor, 16 Constanatia Boulevard, Constanatia Kloof, Roodepoort, 1709 **Telephone number:** +27 11 534 6557 **Website:** [www.nedbank.co.za](http://www.nedbank.co.za)

The Management Company and Trustee are registered and approved under the Collective Investment Schemes Control Act (No.45 of 2002). Prescient is a member of the Association for Savings and Investments SA.

**Investment Manager:** Fairtree Asset Management (Pty) Ltd, **Registration number:** 2004/033269/07 is an authorised Financial Services Provider (25917) under the Financial Advisory and Intermediary Services Act (No.37 of 2002), to act in the capacity as investment manager. This information is not advice, as defined in the Financial Advisory and Intermediary Services Act (No.37 of 2002). Please be advised that there may be representatives acting under supervision. **Physical address:** Willowbridge Place, Cnr. Carl Cronje and Old Oak Road, Bellville, 7530 **Postal address:** PO Box 4124, Tygervalley, 7536 **Telephone number:** +27 86 176 0760 **Website:** [www.fairtree.com](http://www.fairtree.com)

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